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Current Events

[Edited by Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School, Boston, Mass., for the territory covered by the Association of New England and the Atlantic States; Daniel W. Lothman, East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Middle States, west to the Mississippi River; Walter Miller, the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., for the Southern States; and by Frederick C. Eastman, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, for the territory of the Association west of the Mississippi, exclusive of Louisiana and Texas. News from the Pacific Coast may be sent to Miss Juliann A. Roller, Franklin High School, Portland, Ore., and to Miss Bertha Green, Hollywood High School, Los Angeles, Cal. This department will present everything that is properly news—occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. All news items should be sent to the associate editors named above.]

California

San Luis Obispo.—One of the successful organizations in the San Luis Obispo High School and Junior College is the Latin Club which was organized early in the term. The club, which is composed of members of the upper classes and of the Junior College, is enthusiastic and is accomplishing much in its general influence on the scholarship of the school. On the evening of November 18, before a large and appreciative audience the club produced Professor Miller's play of *Dido: the Phoenician Queen*. The parts had been carefully assigned, the persons taking part had been thoroughly trained, and the scenes were effectively worked out. The beauty of the scenes was enthusiastically admired, while the players received unstinted praise and applause. The stage settings were built by the manual-training department, and the scenery was entirely the work of the art department of the school. The play was given under the direction of Miss Claire Thursby, instructor in Latin in the High School and Junior College, assisted by Mrs. L. A. Randall, instructor in art; by Miss Angie Carr, instructor in music, and Miss Laura J. Leonard, instructor in household arts. The part of Dido was effectively taken by Miss Marguerite Dart, and that of Aeneas by Mr. Bernhard Lewin.

Illinois

Chicago.—The Classical Club of Lewis Institute opened its meetings for the year 1916-17 with a lecture by Dr. E. H. Lewis on the *Golden Bough*, an appreciation of Frazer's work. This was followed on October 23, by a talk on "Astronomy in Its Relation to Classical Literature and the Fine Arts" by Professor Brimblecom of McKinley High School. Since then Cicero's *De Senectute* has been read and discussed in the Everyman translation. On January 9 an open meeting was held, at which the new Classical Club room was first used. This room has been redecorated and equipped by the Institute and club members

to serve as a regular meeting-place and study-room. Greek borders were stenciled on the curtains, statuary and classical pictures were secured, and a delightful atmosphere for work was obtained. The meeting was presided over by Director Carman, who paid a graceful tribute to the value the classics had been to him throughout his life. Other speakers gave their interpretation of the position of the classics in modern life; a quartet sang "Gaudeamus Igitur" and "Adeste Fideles," and Mr. G. L. Tenney sang the Greek words to the Homeric "Hymn to Apollo" and an ode of Pindar. A study of Greek mythology is planned for this quarter.

At the fourth mid-winter luncheon of the Chicago Classical Club, February 10, a symposium on "The Best Latin Reading for the High-School Course (all four years included)" was held. A short introductory paper was read by Professor William Gardner Hale, of the University of Chicago, and discussed by Mr. Scott of Chicago, Miss Woodruff of Oak Park, Miss Townsend of Evanston, and Mr. McCoy of Chicago.

Iowa

Fort Dodge.—The Latin department of the Fort Dodge High School has recently organized a club among the pupils of the Caesar, Cicero, and Virgil classes that is proving very interesting and helpful.

All of the members of these classes are called Roman citizens, and practically all of them are active members of the club. They are divided into the three classes, Ordo Senatorius, Ordo Equester, and Ordo Plebeius, according to their grades for the preceding semester.

Twelve officers, who also compose the Senate, transact the business of the club, and report at each regular meeting. Two consuls, chosen from the Ordo Senatorius, preside alternately at the meetings. Two censors, chosen from the Ordo Equester, keep the list of citizens and mark the attendance. It is also their duty to classify the citizens in their proper orders at the end of each semester. This classification has proved to be one of the most practical features of the organization, and great is the rejoicing when a citizen can rise from the Ordo Plebeius to the Ordo Equester.

Two tribunes, chosen from the Ordo Plebeius, post the programs, and many clever posters have appeared on the bulletin boards. Two quaestors, chosen from any order, keep the minutes of the meetings and attend to the finances. Two curule and two plebeian aediles serve as the social and program committee, and, in consultation with a teacher, arrange for all programs or social meetings.

Twenty-six candidates announced their candidacy for the offices at the first election, and personal canvass was carried on with zeal for a week before the election. The successful tribunes had cards printed which they distributed freely on the day of the election. Others announced their candidacy by posters. The Australian ballot system was used in voting, with printed ballots, judges of the election, and voting booth. The voting was done by orders, the Ordo Senatorius voting first.

The work outlined for the club during the year is a study of Roman life, the topography of Rome, and the Roman Forum. The programs are interesting and instructive, and the enthusiasm aroused through the club is finding its way into the regular work of the Latin classes, helping to alleviate the drudgery of Latin and to make interesting a subject that is gradually coming back to its proper place in a high-school course.

Massachusetts

The tenth annual meeting of the Eastern Massachusetts section of the Classical Association of New England was held on Saturday, February 10, at Harvard Hall, Harvard University, Cambridge. The program was as follows: "A Word of Welcome," President Samuel V. Cole, Wheaton College, president of the Section; "Cicero's Rhetorical Theory and Stoic Philosophy," Mr. Roy Kenneth Hack, Harvard University; "The Present Situation in Greece," Dr. Aristides E. Phoutrides, Harvard University; "Some Aspects of Exposition in Greek Tragedy," Dr. Evelyn Spring, Wheaton College; "Charles Pomeroy Parker and the Classical Tradition," Professor Edward K. Rand; "Discussion of Timely Topics," opened by Dr. Arthur W. Roberts, Brookline High School; Lantern Talk: "Recent Acquisitions to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts," Dr. Lacey D. Caskey, of the Museum of Fine Arts.

The following officers were chosen for 1917-18: President, Albert S. Perkins, Dorchester High School; Secretary, Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School; Member of the Executive Committee for five years, William H. Sylvester, Boston English High School.

The annual meeting of the Classical Association of New England will be held on Friday and Saturday, March 30 and 31, at Amherst College, Amherst, Massachusetts.

New Jersey

Weehauken.—Miss Brita L. Horner writes: "The suggestion that we finish our first half year of Latin with a 'party' was received with great enthusiasm by a class of twenty-five beginners. To each pupil was assigned the writing of a short essay on one of ten topics relating to Roman children and education. The material for these essays was to be found in Johnston's *Private Life of the Romans* (Scott, Foresman & Co.), and Church's *Roman Life in the Days of Cicero* (Macmillan). The best ten essays were then selected for delivery and the following program was the result: A poem—'Memories of First-Year Latin'; essays—'The Roman Girl,' 'The Roman Boy at Seven,' 'The Roman Boy at School,' 'Roman Methods of Education,' 'The Pedagogus,' 'The Teacher in a Roman School,' 'Writing Materials Used by the Romans,' 'The Bulla,' 'The *Liberalia* or the Roman Boy at Sixteen.'

"During the program Roman bracelets, pins, and coins were examined with great interest, while a genuine stilus and a model tablet afforded the oppor-

tunity to write in wax 'just like the Romans.' After the formal program the class spent about an hour playing games in Latin."

Oregon

The Classical Club of Portland, Oregon, which has a membership of over twenty-five high-school and college teachers, holds regular monthly meetings during the winter at the homes of its members. Some Latin not read in the regular school course is studied and discussed. The year is opened with a luncheon. This year the *Menaechmi* and *Rudens* of Plautus have been read. The club will next take up Tacitus.

Pennsylvania

The Classical Club of Philadelphia.—The opening of the twenty-second year of the existence of the Classical Club was marked by a meeting on November 3, at which forty-one members were present.

Dr. T. L. Comparette, the distinguished numismatist of the United States Mint, read a paper on "The Roman *Aes Signatum*." Dr. Comparette, after discussing the theories advanced in explanation of the bars, the bars themselves and the significance of the designs upon them, reached the interesting and original conclusion that since the bars gave evidence solely of Greek artistry, they had nothing to do with Roman coinage or monetary system, and were in fact trade-marked commercial ingots designed for use in the metallic arts.

The Classical Club of Philadelphia held its one hundred and twenty-ninth meeting on Friday, January 5, 1917. The paper of the evening was read by Dr. Stephen B. Luce, Jr., of the University of Pennsylvania, "Athens in the First Year of the War and a Modern Aristophanes." Dr. Luce treated of the growth and development of Athens as a modern city and of its seething politics at the outbreak of the war. The "Modern Aristophanes" is one M. Souris, who publishes a paper written in verse, in which he lampoons men and measures much after the fashion of the Old Comedy. Aristophanes, were he living today, would be a pamphleteer instead of a comedian.

Rhode Island

Woonsocket.—Although June, 1916, seems a date of ancient history to the busy men and women of the teaching profession, it may not be too late to tell the readers of the *Classical Journal* of an interesting event in the history of the Woonsocket High School.

It was decided that one of the Commencement week functions should be a Latin evening which in some way would include all the pupils of the Latin department. A *Roman Wedding* was chosen for the nucleus of the program. Miss Whittaker, the head of the Latin department, was insistent that no admission fee be charged, that commercialism might not detract from the dignity of the occasion. Admission was by invitation only. The invitations,

printed in capital letters on imitation parchment, were rolled, tied with linen thread, sealed, and delivered by Roman couriers. This necessarily left her without money with which to finance the undertaking. However, expenses were reduced to a minimum as Miss Whittaker cut and made, with a little help from the girls, the costumes for the one hundred and twenty pupils who took some part in the program. Jewelers and other merchants and friends in the city generously loaned all the rich furnishings for the various scenes of the play, so that the total expenses were absurdly small, and these were met from a fund in the possession of the school. Miss Paxon's *A Roman Wedding* was altered somewhat, as Miss Whittaker combined the second and third acts and added another based on the banquet scene in Dido's palace (*Aeneid* Book i). Couches for the triclinium were made by the janitor and the table was rich in massive silver. The bridal party were the banqueters, and three tiny boys from the Freshman class, dressed as slaves, served the feast, first removing the sandals of their guests, bringing water and napkins with which the guests bathed their hands, and crowning their heads with garlands while the bridegroom wreathed the wine and invoked the gods. The after-dinner entertainment consisted of a soprano solo in Latin by one of the Senior girls; a mandolin solo by a Roman youth of the Freshman class, and a Roman solo dance by a girl of the Junior class. Then followed a charming Roman chorus dance by twelve girls. Their perfect dancing, consisting chiefly of poses, with their garlands of roses and the play of changing light, produced an effect lovely beyond expression. All of the department not participating in the play constituted a chorus which entered the auditorium, led by a small boy carrying the American flag. As he mounted the stage, they grouped themselves about him, and with hands extended to heaven sang "Domine Salvam Fac." This chorus then went to its appointed place in the seats on the floor at the left of the stage where it sang a Latin chorus between each two acts.

Those of you who are familiar with the play will recall the marriage scene in the second act. In this scene, after the lictors had escorted the Pontifex Maximus and the Flamen Dialis through the exits at the rear of the stage, the rest of the bridal party passed down steps at the side of the stage, into the auditorium, where they were joined by the entire chorus, and, all gay with torches and garlands, passed up and down the aisles singing "Gaudeamus Igitur," finally making their exit into one of the corridors and on into the classroom. The door closed while the chorus was still singing. Thus was produced a good effect of such a procession vanishing in the distance through the streets of Rome.

The curtain then rose upon the scene in the home of the bridegroom, where only the immediate bridal party was present, and where the bride performed her sacrifice and prayed to Juno.

Rehearsals for this entertainment had scarcely begun before the pupils manifested much greater enthusiasm and zest for their work, and even to this date the department is living in the afterglow of an evening which a large

audience acclaimed a distinct success, so that all the work and anxiety were amply compensated.

South Dakota

Professor R. D. Elliott, of the University of South Dakota, writes: "My attention has recently been called to an article entitled 'Latin on the Increase,' appearing in an educational journal called *The Midland Schools*, published in Des Moines, Iowa. Thinking that you perhaps might wish to make note of this article in the *Classical Journal*, I quote below the statistics which form the gist of it. If you care to look into it further, you will find the article in the December number of the journal noted above. The figures, which show the registration in Latin in the high schools of Iowa, are as follows:

	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17
First-year Latin.....	4,812	5,344	7,794
Second-year Latin.....	3,127	3,438	5,074
Third- and fourth-year Latin.....	1,665	1,448	1,829
Total.....	9,604	10,230	14,697

"The totals given above for 1914-15 and 1915-16 are my own, as those given in the original article do not agree with the other figures quoted." The writer of the article adds that complete statistics for the current year are not yet available, 50 of the 379 schools not having reported, but that this can only mean an even greater increase than shown above.

Utah

The Ogden High School.—On the ides of December last a debate was held between the "Aeneadae," the Latin Club of the School, and the "Deutscher Verein," with respect to the relative practicality of the two languages. The judges were a leading minister of the town, a state senator, and the president of the Federated Women's Clubs of Utah, who gave their decision in favor of Latin. The club has held several meetings this year, at one of which a program was rendered, closing with the Ogden High School original song "Veniamus Igitur."

The motto of the club is "Animis opibusque parati," its symbol the fasces, and its colors purple and gold. A bulletin board with the name and motto in gold on a purple background has been erected in the hallway, on which are kept notes of classic interest. At present the members are working on two plays to be given in February. Club pins have been ordered, the design being gold fasces with a purple "A" superposed.